



broadband association of north dakota

## BAND Together Newsletter

### Executive Director Report: Celebrating Cooperative Spirit

June is a busy month as we celebrate the cooperative members of our association. Cooperatives are owned and governed by the very communities they serve, ensuring that rural North Dakota's broadband needs are met with local insight and commitment. This month, many of our members are hosting their annual meetings, where residents (aka members) come together to support their cooperative's mission of delivering reliable, high-speed internet to even the most remote areas.

Being a cooperative means prioritizing people over profit, reinvesting in infrastructure, and fostering economic growth in rural communities. These meetings embody that democratic spirit, empowering locals to shape their digital future. Your support for policies that bolster these cooperative providers strengthens connectivity and sustains the vitality of rural North Dakota. While not every member of BAND is a cooperative, every member is a community-based provider, sharing many of the same values and dedication to the people they serve.



### BAND Member Spotlight: Consolidated Telcom



**James Odermann**

Rural Belfield Resident for over 40 years

#### Consolidated Brings Fiber Internet to Belfield, ND – No Longer the Forgotten Area

Belfield, a small town and surrounding rural area in western North Dakota with fewer than 2,000 residents, has been transformed from an underserved rural community into a connected hub, thanks to BAND member [Consolidated's](#) fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) expansion.



**GIG-CERTIFIED  
PROVIDER**

Since 2008, Consolidated has served the town itself with FTTH. In 2022, Consolidated began the work of rolling this FTTH network out to remaining areas outside of town, an area once plagued by limited connectivity and even lacking reliable basic phone service in some locations. This entire service exchange now benefits from Consolidated's commitment to bridging the digital divide in rural America.

"As a community-based provider, it's our mission to deliver reliable, potentially life-saving connectivity to every corner of our service area," said Bryan Personne, CEO of Consolidated. "This mission-driven approach has reshaped Belfield's future."

The community has embraced Consolidated's efforts, with over 60% of Belfield residents subscribing to the fiber-based services. Bolstered by a USDA ReConnect 3 grant in 2022, Consolidated began expanding its fiber network into even more remote areas surrounding Belfield, ensuring no one is left behind.

Beyond connecting homes and small businesses, Consolidated's fiber infrastructure has empowered critical community services. [Roughrider Electric Cooperative](#) now utilizes the fiber network to connect its substations, allowing for real-time monitoring to ensure a stable and reliable electricity supply for Belfield residents. Consolidated's work in Belfield exemplifies its core values as a community-focused service provider, proving that even the most rural areas can thrive in the digital age.

Since 1961, Consolidated has served the people of southwestern North Dakota. Today, Consolidated serves nearly 18,000 residents and businesses. Consolidated is a proud member of the national [Smart Rural Community](#) program.

## Upcoming Events

### June 17

NCC Annual Meeting (Ray, ND)

### June 18

Halstad Annual Meeting (Halstad, ND)

Consolidated Annual Meeting (Dickinson, ND)

### June 19

SRT Annual Meeting (Minot, ND)

### July 23

Co-Op Day @ ND State Fair (Minot, ND)

United & Turtle Mountain Comm. Annual Meeting (Langdon, ND)

### July 25

811 One Call Day @ ND State Fair (Minot, ND)



## Get in Touch & Stay Connected!

**Carissa Swenson,**  
Executive Director

I am happy to provide information or speak at an event. If you aren't already subscribed to this newsletter, [please join our mailing list.](#)



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